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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/591,449	06/09/2000	Hiraku Inoue	SONY-T0682	3223

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EXAMINER

KNOLL, CLIFFORD H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2112

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/591,449

Applicant(s)

INOUE ET AL.

Examiner

Clifford H Knoll

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The title of the invention is acceptable as amended. The objection to the specification is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oprescu (US 5394556).

Regarding claim 1, Oprescu discloses a controller device with a first command generating means for generating a first reserve command for inhibiting communication between one target device and another target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 43-44, "sends a bus denied signal (BD) through all its other child ports"), a second command generating means for generating a second reserve command for permitting transmission of a specified command between said one target device and said another target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-51, "the BG signal propagates downward through the graph until it reaches the requesting node"), transmitting means for selectively transmitting to said target devices and other controller devices said first reserve command (e.g., col. 11, lines 42-44, "sends the BD signal through all of its other child ports which propagate

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downward”) and selectively transmitting to said target devices said second reserve command (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-51, “the BG signal propagates downward through the graph until it reaches the requesting node”).

Regarding claim 2, Oprescu further discloses the command provides authentication between said one and another target devices (e.g., col. 4, lines 21-26, “node which communicates”, and col. 10, lines 18-55, in particular, note “unique physical address ... which may be utilized for ...” (lines 53-55), and “will transmit an address assignment packet” (line 19)).

Regarding claim 3, Oprescu further discloses the command identifies attributes (e.g., col. 4, lines 21-26, “node which communicates”, and col. 10, lines 18-55, in particular, note “unique physical address which may be utilized for” (lines 53-55), and “will transmit an address assignment packet” (line 19)).

Regarding claim 4, Oprescu further discloses the IEEE 1394 format criteria (e.g., col. 1, lines 59-64).

Regarding claim 5, Oprescu further discloses operating means selecting either first or second commands (e.g., 11, lines 46-49, “issues a bus grant signal (BG) responsive to the first BR signal it receives and sends the BD signal through all of its other child ports”).

Regarding claim 6, Oprescu discloses a controller device with a first command generating means for generating a first reserve command for inhibiting communication between one target device and another target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 43-44, “sends a bus denied signal (BD) through all its other child ports”), a second command generating

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means for generating a second reserve command for permitting transmission of a specified command between said one target device and said another target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-51, "the BG signal propagates downward through the graph until it reaches the requesting node"), transmitting means for selectively transmitting to said target devices and other controller devices said first reserve command (e.g., col. 11, lines 42-44, "sends the BD signal through all of its other child ports which propagate downward") and selectively transmitting to said target devices said second reserve command (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-51, "the BG signal propagates downward through the graph until it reaches the requesting node"), and a third command generating means for generating a bus reset command for resetting said data bus for transferring data, along with the selective transmitting means (e.g., col. 12, lines 58-61, "BI"), in each target device receiving and judging means (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-53), controlling means for validating the determined first reserve command received upon elapse of a first predetermined time, and validating the determined second reserve command received upon elapse of a second predetermined time shorter than the first (e.g., col. 11, lines 46-53, "which then sends Bus Acknowledge (BA) signal", "sends the BD signal through all of its other child ports").

Regarding claim 7, Opreescu further discloses the command provides authentication between said one and another target devices (e.g., col. 4, lines 21-26, "node which communicates", and col. 10, lines 18-55, in particular, note "unique physical address ... which may be utilized for" (lines 53-55), and "will transmit an address assignment packet" (line 19)).

Regarding claim 8, Oprescu further discloses the command identifies attributes (e.g., col. 4, lines 21-26, "node which communicates", and col. 10, lines 18-55, in particular, note "unique physical address which may be utilized for" (lines 53-55), and "will transmit an address assignment packet" (line 19)).

Regarding claim 9, Oprescu further discloses the IEEE 1394 format criteria (e.g., col. 1, lines 59-64).

Regarding claim 10, Oprescu further discloses operating means selecting either first or second commands (e.g., 11, lines 46-49, "issues a bus grant signal (BG) responsive to the first BR signal it receives and sends the BD signal through all of its other child ports").

Regarding claim 11, Oprescu discloses a controller device with a first command generating means for generating a first reserve command for inhibiting communication between one target device and another target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 43-44, "sends a bus denied signal (BD) through all its other child ports"), a second command generating means for generating a second reserve command for permitting transmission of a specified command between said one target device and said another target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-51, "the BG signal propagates downward through the graph until it reaches the requesting node"), transmitting means for selectively transmitting to said target devices and other controller devices said first reserve command (e.g., col. 11, lines 42-44, "sends the BD signal through all of its other child ports which propagate downward") and selectively transmitting to said target devices said second reserve command (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-51, "the BG signal propagates downward through the

graph until it reaches the requesting node”), and receiving means in each target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-53).

Regarding claim 12, Oprescu further discloses the command provides authentication between said one and another target devices (e.g., col. 4, lines 21-26, “node which communicates”, and col. 10, lines 18-55, in particular, note “unique physical address ... which may be utilized for ...” (lines 53-55), and “will transmit an address assignment packet” (line 19)).

Regarding claim 13, Oprescu further discloses the command identifies attributes (e.g., col. 4, lines 21-26, “node which communicates”, and col. 10, lines 18-55, in particular, note “unique physical address which may be utilized for” (lines 53-55), and “will transmit an address assignment packet” (line 19)).

Regarding claim 14, Oprescu further discloses the IEEE 1394 format criteria (e.g., col. 1, lines 59-64).

Regarding claim 15, Oprescu further discloses operating means selecting either first or second commands (e.g., 11, lines 46-49, “issues a bus grant signal (BG) responsive to the first BR signal it receives and sends the BD signal through all of its other child ports”).

Regarding claim 16, Oprescu discloses selecting either a first reserve command inhibiting communication between one target device and another target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 43-44, “sends a bus denied signal (BD) through all its other child ports”), or a second reserve command for permitting transmission of a specified command between said one target device and said another target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-51, “the BG

signal propagates downward through the graph until it reaches the requesting node”), and transmitting the selected command (e.g., col. 11, lines 41-46).

Regarding claim 17, Oprescu discloses receiving either a first reserve command for inhibiting communication between one target device and another target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 43-44, “sends a bus denied signal (BD) through all its other child ports”), or a second reserve command for permitting transmission of a specified command between said one target device and said another target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-51, “the BG signal propagates downward through the graph until it reaches the requesting node”), and judging whether the received reserve command is the first or second command (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-51, “the BG signal propagates downward through the graph until it reaches the requesting node”), and receiving means in each target device (e.g., col. 11, lines 49-53), receiving a bus reset command for resetting said data bus for transferring data (e.g., col. 12, lines 58-61, “BI”), and validating the determined first reserve command received upon elapse of a first predetermined time, and validating the determined second reserve command received upon elapse of a second predetermined time shorter than the first (e.g., col. 11, lines 46-53, “which then sends Bus Acknowledge (BA) signal”, “sends the BD signal through all of its other child ports”).

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed 15 December 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has amended claims and argues that Oprescu fails to anticipate the claimed invention as amended; however the rejection is maintained above with additional citations to the prior art for greater clarity. In particular, Applicant argues that "generation of two specific reserve commands clarified in the claims" is not disclosed by Oprescu (p. 11); however, as citations presented above indicate, Oprescu discloses these reserve commands, introducing them as "bus deny" and "bus grant" signals. Applicant is directed to the relevant citations made supra. Applicant observes that Oprescu is "directed to a node identification system for use in a computer system" (p. 11); this is not disputed, however within the context of Oprescu's identification system is the section entitled "Fair Bus Access Arbitration" which is primarily cited, in the previous Office Action and maintained supra, in order to detail precisely how Oprescu anticipates the claimed invention.

Applicant further argues that Oprescu does not disclose transmission of authentication information (p. 11); however, Oprescu does indeed disclose "communication with other nodes" (col. 4, line 25-26) which communication consists of "unique physical address" identification (e.g., col. 10, lines 52-54) in the larger context of practicing the IEEE 1394 communication standard to which Oprescu's embodiment is

directed. Therefore Examiner asserts transmission of authenticate information is disclosed by Opreescu.

Applicant further argues that Opreescu does not "indicate that a second reserve command is generated that can permit transmission of a specified command between two target devices" (p. 12); however this particular feature was anticipated and cited in rejecting the independent claim, namely the "bus grant" signal, cited in the previous Office Action and maintained *supra*.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clifford H Knoll whose telephone number is 703-305-8656. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 0630-1500.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark H Rinehart can be reached on 703-305-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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